

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 24, 2006, rejecting claims 1-13 and 29-33, and objecting to claims 14 and 28. Claims 15-27 and 34-46 had been earlier withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-13, 15-27 and 29-46 are cancelled. Claims 14 and 28 are amended. Claims 14 and 28 are thus pending.

EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Applicants wish to acknowledge with appreciation the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the Examiner Interviews on June 29, 2006 and August 16, 2006. The Examiner's comments were helpful to Applicants in preparing this Response.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 14 and 28 were objected to in the Action as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The claims are amended herein to an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such claims 14 and 28 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request allowance thereof.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-13, 29-30, and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rioux (U.S. Pat. No. 6,964,661 B2; hereinafter "the '661 patent") in view of Wang (U.S. Pat. No. 5,462,545; hereinafter "the '545 patent").

The Examiner further rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rioux (the '661 patent) in view of Wang (the '545 patent) and further in view of Edwards (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,755; hereinafter "the '755 patent").

While Applicants disagree with the basis of the Examiner's rejection, the rejected claims are now cancelled without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue this subject matter further in a

continuation application

Applicants' have also cancelled withdrawn claims 15-27 and 34-46 in order to pursue that subject matter in a divisional application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants earnestly believe that the application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request Examiner to expedite prosecution of this patent application to issuance. Should Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 23-2415 (Docket No. 28791-704.201).

Respectfully submitted,

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